

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/392,585

Examiner

William C. Vaughn, Jr.

Applicant(s)

DESLANDES ET AL.

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2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09 June 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6-11, 14 and 17. Renumbered 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 September 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 06/23/2000.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

William C. Vaughn, Jr.
Patent Examiner
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[Signature]

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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ronald L. Kimble, Reg. No. 44,186 on 21 June 2004.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. {CURRENTLY AMENDED} A process for monitoring a plurality of franking machines, wherein at least one of the plurality of franking machines is connected to a public communications network and at least another one of the plurality of franking machines is not connected to the public communications network, the process comprising:

establishing a link between a management server on the public communications network, and a supervision terminal on the public communications network, wherein the supervision terminal is independent from the plurality of franking machines; and

exchanging data between the supervision terminal and the management server over the established link, including transmitting a current invoicing index corresponding

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to the at least another one of the franking machine not connected to the public communications network to the management server and transmitting a code of authorization to frank for validating subsequent frankings of the at least another one of the franking machine not connected to the network to the supervision terminal and wherein the code of authorization to frank is communicated manually to the at least another one of the plurality of franking machine through a user interface; and

wherein exchanging data further comprises displaying at the supervision terminal a list of the entire plurality of franking machines and, a last invoicing index validated by the management server corresponding to each of the plurality of franking machines.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Because the closest prior art of record does not teach nor suggest in detail exchanging data between the supervision terminal and the management server over the established link, including transmitting a current invoicing index corresponding to the at least another one of the franking machine not connected to the public communications network to the management server and transmitting a code of authorization to frank for validating subsequent frankings of the at least another one of the franking machine not connected to the network to the supervision terminal and wherein the code of authorization to frank is communicated manually to the at least another one of the plurality of franking machine through a user interface; and, in combination with all the limitations of independent claim 1, (see Applicant's arguments received on 07 May 2004, pages 16-29, see the attached

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interview, as well as the enabling portions of Applicant's specification, page 5, line 26 to page 6, line 1, page 8, lines 7-18, and Figure 2).

3. The dependent claims further limit the independent claims and are considered allowable on the same basis as the independent claims as well as for the further limitations set forth.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. **Claims 1-4, 6-11, 14 and 17** are allowable. Renumbered claims 1-12.

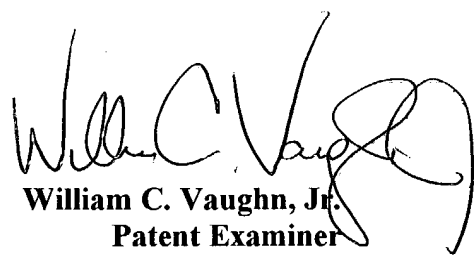
Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Vaughn, Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 306-9129. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-6:00, 1st and 2nd Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (703) 308-5221. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William C. Vaughn, Jr.", is written over the printed name and title.

William C. Vaughn, Jr.
Patent Examiner
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24 June 2004